

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): [[An]]A removable and repeatably reusable apparatus for use with and to improve grippability by a user's fingers of a stringed instrument pick having a grip end portion on a first surface comprising:

- a) a relatively thin piece of material having a perimeter, opposite sides, and the following inherent properties:
 - (i) resists sliding of and promotes gripping by human fingers;
 - (ii) is repeatably applicable to said gripping portion on said first and removable from a surface of one or more picks;
 - (iii) is adapted to be adhered to a gripping portion of a pick resists sliding or separation when applied to a surface of a pick;
 - (iv) is adapted for removable adhesion to a pick does not leave a substantial residue or remnant on a user's fingers or on a pick;
- b) so that the piece can improve grip of a pick by a user, is not permanently attached to a pick, and does not require a separate adhesive or mounting structure to a pick or a user.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the removable adhesion is by cohesion and/or surface tension.

Claim 5 (Original): The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the cohesion is without residue if removed.

Claim 6 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is adapted to be sized and shaped so that it does not substantially change the size, shape, mass, or function of a pick.

Claim 7 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is sized and shaped to fit within perimeter dimensions of a pick.

Claim 8 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material can be retrofitted to an existing pick.

Claim 9 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is adaptable to a variety of sizes and shapes of picks.

Claim 10 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is rubbery-like having a substantially tacky exterior and is flexible.

Claim 11 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is made from liquid silicon, liquid plastic, or liquid latex.

Claim 12 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material is moldable.

Claim 13 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein one side of the material is smooth.

Claim 14 (Original): The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the other side of the material has some texture, is roughened, or is mottled.

Claim 15 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material has a central thickness variance.

Claim 16 (Original): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the central thickness variance is either a raised portion or a depression.

Claim 17 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the material has a thickness on the order of or less than the thickness of a pick to which it is to be applied.

Claim 18 (Original): The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the thickness of the material is approximately from 0.6 mm to 1.0 mm.

Claim 19 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the perimeter dimensions of the material include approximately 26.5 mm at its widest and 18 mm in length.

Claim 20 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a second piece of material adapted for application to a gripping portion on a second surface of a pick.

Claim 21 (Original): The apparatus of claim 1 in combination with a stringed instrument pick.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A stringed instrument pick system comprising:

- a) a stringed instrument pick having a gripping portion on a first surface;
- b) a relatively thin piece of material which, by inherent properties of the material, is removably cohesive to repeatably applicable to and removable from the gripping portion, resists sliding[[,]] or separation, and promotes grip by human fingers when removably applied to said gripping portion on said first surface of the pick, but does not leave a substantial residue or remnant on a user's fingers or on a pick; so that the piece can improve grip of a pick by a user, is not permanently attached to the pick, and does not require a separate adhesive or mounting structure to the pick or the user.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 22 further comprising a relatively thin piece of material which resists sliding, promotes grip of human fingers applicable to a gripping portion on a second surface of the pick.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The system of claim 22 wherein the material is shaped to fit within perimeter dimensions of the first surface of the pick.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A method of improving gripability grippability of a stringed instrument pick comprising:

- a) applying a material to a gripping portion on a first surface of the pick, the material being relatively thin, resistant to and having inherent properties comprising resists sliding or separation and promotes gripping by human fingers when applied to a surface of a pick, removably cohesive is repeatably applicable to and removable from a pick but does not leave a

substantial residue or remnant on a user's fingers or on a pick, and shaped and sized to fit within perimeter dimensions of the pick;

b) gripping the pick with at least one finger in contact with the material applied on the gripping portion of the first surface.

Claim 26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method of claim 25 wherein the material does not materially ~~effect~~affect size, shape, mass, function or pliability of the pick.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): A method of making an apparatus for use with a stringed instrument pick to increase ~~gripability~~grippability of the pick comprising:

- a) ~~form~~forming a mold having a shape which roughly approximates the shape of the gripping portion of a stringed instrument pick;
- b) ~~place~~placing into the mold a liquid material, the liquid material being formed of liquid silicone, plastic, or latex;
- c) ~~heat~~heating the material in the mold at approximately 470°F for approximately 8 minutes;
- d) cooling the material in the mold at approximately 66 to 75°F for approximately 4 to 6 minutes;
- e) ~~remove~~removing the material from the mold.

Claim 29 (Currently amended): [[An]]A removable and repeatably reusable apparatus for use with and to improve gripability by a user's fingers of a stringed instrument pick having a grip end portion on a first surface comprising:

- a) a piece of material having a perimeter, opposite sides, and the following inherent properties:
 - (i) resists sliding and promotes gripping by of human fingers along at least one of the opposite sides;

- (ii) is applicable to said gripping portion on said first surface repeatably applicable to and removable from a surface of one or more stringed instrument picks; and
- (iii) is adapted for removable adhesion to a pick, resists sliding or separation when applied to a surface of a pick;
- (iv) does not leave a substantial residue or remnant on a user's fingers or on a pick;

so that the piece can improve grip of a pick by a user, is not permanently attached to a pick, and does not require a separate adhesive or mounting structure to a pick or a user.